

KALAMAZOO GAZETTE (MI)
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Anti-CIA draws 150 at 'K'

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A noon-hour rally to protest a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency recruiter's visit to Kalamazoo College drew a crowd of about 150 to a sunny square outside the school's career development center Thursday.

The rally, sponsored by two groups whose members said they oppose U.S. foreign policy, also drew a small contingent of eight to 10 students dressed in coats, ties and dark glasses who said they were demonstrating in favor of the CIA's right to come to the campus.

Those who gathered in the courtyard outside Dewing Hall heard five speakers, including several students and one professor, discuss conditions in Central America and reasons for opposition to the CIA's recruiting visit.

Rally organizers, who included members of the K-College Students Coalition for Peace and Non-violence and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), said they

were pleased by the turnout.

Robert Raymond, a K-College sophomore who represented the coalition, said one important purpose of the rally was to educate students about foreign affairs.

"Information was an important consideration, not just opposition," Raymond said. "I look at the awareness planted here as a seed that will grow."

During the rally a banner that read "CIA K-College welcomes you" was unfurled from a second-story window of Dewing Hall by the counterdemonstrators, who then appeared at the fringes of the rally carrying copies of The Wall Street Journal.

"We feel there's no reason that the CIA shouldn't come here," said one, K-College sophomore Bruce Kantor, who said he and two others were cutting part of a class in order to be there.

"We didn't want the press to think the demonstration represents the attitude of Kalamazoo College students," said Steven Carson. "We represent a broader spectrum than the protesters do."